

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI NIACT IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 242933

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LT, US

SUBJECT: USG REPRESENTATIVE'S MEETING WITH
PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN

REF: A. STATE 236780 (NOTAL), (B) MASERU 1095 (NOTAL)

1. THE FOLLOWING ARE REVISIONS OF BRIEFING MEMO-
RANDUM SENT REFTEL TO MASERU FOR MEETING WITH PRIME
MINISTER JONATHAN.

2. EXPAND CHECKLIST TO INCLUDE:

-- US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO - REAFFIRM
OUR COMMITMENT TO ASSIST LESOTHO WITH ITS ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT.

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-- US CONTRIBUTION TO IDA AND UNDP - EXPLAIN OUR INTENT TO REPLENISH US CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION. EXPLAIN THAT CONGRESS HAS APPROPRIATED \$100 MILLION FOR US CONTRIBUTION TO UNDP.

-- THABA BOSIU PROJECT - EXPLAIN THAT WE HAVE

PROGRAMMED \$500,000 FOR THE AGRICULTURAL PROJECT IN FY 77, AND THAT WE PLAN TO COMPLETE THE QUOTE INTEGRATED FARMING UNQUOTE COMPONENT.

3. US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO

BACKGROUND: PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN HAS EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE ROLE THE US PLAYS AS A MAJOR DONOR IN LESOTHO'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. FOREIGN MINISTER MOLAPO CONSIDERS OUR AID LEVEL QUOTE MINIMAL UNQUOTE AND BELIEVES WE SHOULD DO MORE GIVEN LESOTHO'S NEEDS AND CONSISTENT SUPPORT ON UN ISSUES. SINCE INDEPENDENCE IN 1966, WE HAVE GIVEN LESOTHO \$16.7 MILLION IN PL-480 GRAIN TO ASSIST IT TO MEET ITS CHRONIC FOOD DEFICIENCY. THE PEACE CORPS IS PRESENTLY VITAL TO LESOTHO'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. AID IS DEVELOPING PROJECTS IN THE AREAS OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NUTRITION. WE ARE PLANNING TO INCREASE OUR AID GRANT ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO FROM \$918,000 IN FY 76 TO \$1,683,000 IN FY 77. HOWEVER, AID'S PRESENT CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE DOES NOT ALLOW US TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE GOL'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO BUILD A NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. DESPITE OUR EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE US INVESTMENT IN LESOTHO, THERE IS PRACTICALLY NONE THERE.

APPROXIMATELY 200,000 OF LESOTHO'S 1.3 MILLION POPULATION WORK IN SOUTH AFRICAN MINES AND ON SOUTH AFRICAN FARMS. WIDESPREAD VIOLENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA COULD CAUSE THE REPATRIATION OF MANY OF THESE LABORERS, WHICH COULD DISRUPT LESOTHO'S ECONOMY
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AND AFFECT THE STABILITY OF PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN'S GOVERNMENT. IF THAT SHOULD OCCUR HE MAY REQUEST US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO MEET THE CRISIS.

YOUR TALKING POINTS

-- THE US REMAINS COMMITTED TO ASSISTING LESOTHO WITH ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. OUR AID AND PEACE

CORPS PROGRAMS ARE PRESENTLY ASSISTING YOU IN THE AREAS OF EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NUTRITION.

-- WE EXPECT THAT THE VALUE OF OUR AID ASSISTANCE IN THIS FISCAL YEAR WILL BE NEARLY TWICE THE AMOUNT WE PLANNED FOR LAST YEAR.

-- (IF RAISED) I REGRET THAT THE PRESENT CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE MAKES IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR US TO ASSIST YOU WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

-- I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON ANY EFFECTS THE UNREST OF SOUTH AFRICA MAY HAVE ON YOUR DEVELOPMENT PLANS.

4. US CONTRIBUTION TO IDA AND UNDP

BACKGROUND: THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION WAS ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED AS A US INITIATIVE TO SHARE THE AID BURDEN MORE WIDELY. AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATIONS DIFFICULTIES HAVE ARISEN DURING EACH REPLENISHMENT. US APPROPRIATIONS FOR IDA-4 ARE NOW TWO YEARS BEHIND OUR IDA COMMITMENTS AND THE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF MOST OTHER DONORS.

YOUR TALKING POINTS

-- IDA-4 REPLENISHMENT IS OFFICIALLY SCHEDULED TO TERMINATE JUNE 30, 1977 AND INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS ON IDA-5 HAVE BEGUN. THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS BUT NO FIRM AGREEMENT ON THE ISSUES
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OF REPLENISHMENT SIZE AND BURDEN SHARING.

-- WHILE WE WANT THE US TO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN SUPPORTING IDA-5, WE ARE PRESSING TRADITIONAL DONORS AS WELL AS THE MAJOR OIL EXPORTING NATIONS TO ASSUME A FAIR SHARE OF THE IDA CAPITALIZATION.

-- WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH THERE IS A MEASURE OF AGREEMENT THAT FOR A BROAD RANGE OF REASONS THE US SHOULD SUPPORT A SUBSTANTIALLY ENLARGED IDA-5, PERHAPS IN THE RANGE OF \$8 OR \$9 BILLION. THE TACTICS TO BE EMPLOYED TO OBTAIN MAXIMUM CONGRESSIONAL ACCEPTANCE ARE BEING FORMULATED. A DECISION ON THE US PARTICIPATION SHOULD BE MADE EARLY IN 1977.

-- THE JOINT CONFERENCE REPORT ON FY 77 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATIONS BILL, WHICH PROVIDES FOR A 1977 \$100 MILLION CONTRIBUTION BY THE US TO UNDP, HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE CONGRESS. THIS IS THE AMOUNT WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION REQUESTED.

5. THABA BOSIU PROJECT

BACKGROUND: US SUPPORT FOR THE THABA BOSIU RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT BEGAN IN FY 1973 WITH WORLD BANK PARTICIPATION IN THE FORM OF AN IDA LOAN OF \$5.6 MILLION. THIS IS A MAJOR SOIL CONSERVATION AND FARMING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

PENDING FINAL CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON FY 1977 AID APPROPRIATION, WE CURRENTLY HAVE PROGRAMMED \$500,000 FOR THIS PROJECT IN FY 1977. WE PLAN TO END MAJOR AID FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT IN FY 1978. HOWEVER THE GOL BELIEVES THAT THE US MAY TAKE OVER SOME CONTINUING ELEMENTS OF THIS EFFORT. AID WILL CARRY ON SOME COMPONENTS OF THE OVERALL PROJECT CALLED THE INTEGRATED FARMING COMPONENT OF THE PROJECT WE EXPECT THAT THE WORLD BANK'S SEPARATE, ALTHOUGH RELATED, EFFORTS IN THE QUOTE CROP INPUT UNQUOTE PORTION OF THE OVERALL PROJECT WILL ALSO CONTINUE.
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THE PROJECT PAPER AMENDMENT SPECIFICALLY PROVIDES FOR CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE FURTHER EFFORTS TO REPEAT THIS PROJECT.

YOUR TALKING POINTS:

-- PENDING FINAL CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS ON FY 1977 AID APPROPRIATION, WE CURRENTLY HAVE PROGRAMMED \$500,000 FOR THIS PROJECT IN FY 1977. FY 1978 REMAINS THE FINAL YEAR OF PLANNED AID FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

-- AID WILL COMPLETE THE INTEGRATED FARMING COMPONENT OF THE OVERALL THABA BOSIU PROJECT.

ROBINSON

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